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## Training Little Children

ARTICLE XXXII

By Mrs. Ethel G. Young

I am a mother of three children; Betty, aged six; Bob, four; and Jack, who is two. Up to the time Betty was four years old she had always been a very nervous child and needed constant entertaining. I hesitated to send her to kindergarten, but after reasoning with myself, I finally decided to send her. The concentration required in the two years she spent in kindergarten made a different child of her, and she can amuse herself now for many hours at a time.

Bob entered kindergarten about three months ago. He is a quiet child and needs to be brought out of himself. He seems to be getting needed help in the kindergarten, for, in the short while he has been there, he has become more talkative and active. He now enjoys being with other children whereas before he preferred to play alone.

There is nothing more necessary in bringing up children than to have them feel that we are interested in them. Try always to answer their questions. If you cannot satisfy their curiosity they will surely go elsewhere for their information. When the children come home from school, I ask what they did, what song they sang, what pictures they looked at, etc. They live the two or three hours spent in kindergarten over again by telling me what they have done. I had to leave the children for a week not long ago. When I returned they could not talk fast enough to tell me all that had happened. The habit thus formed of caring to share their experience with you is a great safeguard as they grow older.

A story at bedtime is always welcomed by the children, and I find that it is not only enjoyable and beneficial to them, but also to myself. They never tire of good fairy stories. Nature stories are always interesting, too. My children will choose the same stories over and over again until they almost know them by heart.

Several nights ago I was called away and could not read a story, so I promised one for after breakfast next morning. When breakfast was over and I thought of all I had to do, it seemed as if I were wasting time to sit and tell stories. However, as the children became absorbed in the story and their happy faces looked up into mine, I realized that time could not be better spent. The story was that of Hans and the Four Big Giants the keynote of which is helping others. I knew that the children had absorbed the point of the story, when they helped me afterwards to clear the breakfast table.

The kindergarten is a great help in making children independent. Each child is taught gradually and in a playful way to help himself. In a class of forty, John does not like to be the only one who cannot put on his rubbers or button his coat. Perhaps you will say that you can teach independence at home. Granted, you can. The trouble at home is that we too often do too many things for our children. At home, too, we lack the group work so beneficial in the kindergarten. It develops the social side of a child as well as his ability to be of service.

Orderliness is another aim of the kindergarten. It should also be the aim of every household. In kindergarten all the material is kept in order. It is given out and collected in an orderly way and each child is taught to pack up his material after he has finished with it. There is always a place for everything in the kindergarten and the child learns to put everything in its place.

If your child is not orderly at home do not blame him until you first put yourself in his place and see if you are expecting the impossible. We have discovered in our family that by making things convenient, the children will keep things in order. In our coat closet we have a box for rubbers and another for toys. We have put within reach two hooks for each child's clothing. On the floor there is a bag of several pockets for gloves. Even the two-year old boy puts his things away and I have never taught him to do so. He learned by observing the others. Just the other night he cried while I was undressing him because he remembered he had not put his train away. Let each child have a separate place for his toys for they so enjoy being owners. If one is neat and another careless, it would be very discouraging for both to keep their things together.

Not long ago I spent a most enjoyable afternoon coasting with the children. A neighbor who saw me, said: "You surely are a child with your children." She unconsciously paid me a compliment. If I can only make my children feel that I am interested in everything they do, I am certain I will have and keep their confidence.



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GROVER C. BOYD, Cookeville, Tenn., Financial Correspondent for Putnam County.

BLOOMINGTON SPRINGS, R. 1

There was preaching at Allen's Chapel the first Sunday, by the pastor, Bro. Richardson.

Pearlie and Carman Rodgers visited their sister, Saturday, Mrs. Cora McBroom.

Mrs. Ara Daws and Mrs. Margaret Stout visited at W. H. McBroom's one day last week.

Veler, Avo and Virdie McBroom, Bro. Richardson and the writer took dinner with Mrs. Julia Bryant last Sunday.

Mrs. Belle McBroom visited Mrs. W. H. McBroom Saturday afternoon.

I will ask for a shower of birthday cards, letters and presents for my cousin, April 24. She will be 48 yrs. old, and all of you Herald readers, come across and send her something. Address to Mrs. Ara Daws, Bloomington Springs, Tenn., R. 1.

BLUE EYED GIRL.

BAXTER, ROUTE 1

The writer's family was down four weeks with the flu.

Mack Billingsley, I saw your letter in the Herald, and it seems like I was talking to you.

Travis Vickers, why don't you write to me.

Is everybody living for God? I am afraid not. We better all wake up and go to work while it is day, for night cometh when no man can work.

My good friends, a lot of people, if they don't mind will put it off until too late. May the Lord save you all is my prayer.

W. H. VICKERS.

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